

Poster Exhibition Thursday

12 - Open Session

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KG II - HS 2121 (Uni Freiburg)

IUFRO17-1240 **Will the DRC community forest model be viable?**

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**Abstract:** Since the second half of the 2000s, several options on the implementation of community forests in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) have been discussed in the country's technical and political circles. Propositions and pilot testing have increased in the last 2-3 years, in parallel with the promise of substantial international funding. As a result, several initiatives have been tested or are under development in the forest area of the DRC. Yet, the regulatory framework remains incomplete and very much debated. In the absence of a clear regulation and indeed political direction, the funding of current initiatives is often proposed with divergent purposes and conducted with different approaches.

We reviewed the current experiences and found that none has conducted an estimation of the potential financial return of the business models they elaborated for/with the concerned communities. We thus conducted a socio-economic feasibility study for three case studies in Orientale province, by estimating the costs of developing/implementing activities and the benefits expected for communities on a 5 years horizon. Four main results are drawn from this analysis: (1) all experiences show a negative financial performance, the initial and implementation costs being significantly above the medium-term profits; (2) the main benefit expected by communities is clarifying and securing their customary land tenure; (3) a majority of the activities conducted in the framework of the 'community forest' model deal with rural development and not forestry operations per se, and therefore could be promoted and conducted without having to engage in a process of designing, establishing and maintaining the community forest model; (4) local organizations set up to oversee community forests are complex, expensive and little known by most inhabitants. We conclude by discussing and proposing a few models that could improve the effectiveness of community forestry in the DRC.

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IUFRO17-86 **Institutional models in forestry and nature conservation and climate change mitigation measures in selected European Union and western Balkan countries**

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**Abstract:** This paper presents the analysis of the institutional frameworks and measures for climate change (CC) mitigation in forestry and nature conservation in selected European Union (Germany, Austria, Slovenia, Croatia) and Western Balkan (Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia) countries.

Primary data were collected through interviews with representatives of public administration and organizations in forestry and nature conservation. Respondents' perception of CC and their attitudes towards institutional and organizational competencies as well as prevailing institution's and organization's strategies and measures for CC mitigation (incl. measures related to changes in organizational structures, processes and instruments) were analysed and compared across the countries. In addition, attitudes towards the needs for new and the improvement of existing decision-support systems and cross-sectoral cooperation were investigated. Secondary data were collected from internal reports, strategic and legislative documents and a content analysis was conducted.

The paper identifies different institutional and organizational models and approaches in the sectors of forestry and nature conservation as well as the division of responsibilities related to CC in selected countries. The authors focus on the reasons behind the emergence of the particular institutional models and provide an explanation for the differences in economic, regulatory and informational measures regarding CC mitigation (e.g. related to the replacement of non-renewable energy sources, carbon sequestration and use of wood products) which are specific to the investigated countries.

institutional models, measures, climate change

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IUFRO17-2815 **The Ecosystem Approach, Ecosystem Services and Established Forestry Policy Approaches in the UK**

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**Abstract:** A series of approaches have been proposed for natural resource management and biodiversity conservation in recent decades. This paper contributes to a lively contemporary debate surrounding the ecosystem approach and ecosystem services, by examining how these two interrelated but distinctly different concepts are currently understood and adopted within UK forestry and in the context of established forestry policy paradigms. For this purpose, I undertook a review of the scholarly literature and legal and policy documents which have been triangulated with a survey of the attitudes, interpretations and opinions of forestry stakeholders' through expert interviews. The analysis suggests that in the UK forestry sector, as elsewhere, the frequency of, often broad and ambiguous, approaches to natural resource management and nature conservation in general, and forestry policy and management in particular, are causing confusion amongst some stakeholders, who, unsurprisingly frequently conflate concepts seemingly without understanding the details. However, a clear understanding of the differences and similarities of these key concepts, stemming from overlapping but different disciplines, is important for successful policy implementation and sustainable forest management.

sustainable forestry, ecosystem services, politics

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

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